

4. COAL. With the studies building coal pile good to the last drop, and practically down to the last drop, we were glad to get a notice about two days before Christmas of the arrival of a car of stoker. Picture gallant Al Brody at the wheel day and night, night and day (with no pay for overtime), and the equally gallant, and equally grimmy community members, faculty and students side by side, bringing in the coal! The Solid Fuels Administration had come to our rescue in spite of John Lewis! Not only that, but our regular coal dealer at Cleveland Cliff's also came across, and a second car of stoker coal arrived on Christmas Day. So picture Al again at the wheel (Casey Jones had nothing on him). But don't jump for joy about the coal being in. There is still a car of LUMP to come — about January 8 — start planning Marvel and put us on the sidelines!

5. Government Chairs. It was a bright, sunny day when Mrs. Rondy first sighted the government chairs down under the studies building wall in the marsh near the lake. Five days later it began to rain and the practical head of Mrs. Rondy remembered the chairs and feared for the leather upholstery. Down to the office she rushed (no she is too old to rush); down to the office she hurried with fast, short steps, to find her Rondy. HE would rescue the government chairs. The office was silent and empty, but one could hear the gurgling of Rondy and John 'neath the floor as they worked happily on the installation of the Wallen's new Montgomery Ward sink. Down to the basement hurried Mrs. Rondy.

"Rondy the government chairs are getting wet. It's raining."

"So are we!"

"Come and get them out of the rain."

"Oh, hang the government chairs, we've got to finish this job or it will rain here."

"Couldn't you come, John?"

"No, we can't get out of here." (They were squeezed in between floor and dirt.

"Go find someone in the studies building to help you."

So off pattered Mrs. Rondy in the rain to the studies building and there was Anita Fein.

"Anita, the government chairs have fallen off the parapet, get everyone in the studies building to help put them back up." And off pattered Mrs. Rondy down the stairway and the lower halls. There she found Franziska and together they pattered on down to the marsh where the government chairs were getting wet. Soon Dick Roberts joined them, and in a jiffy the chairs were back in place on the terrace and were covered against the weather.

IN THE MEANTIME, Anita came to Bill Levi's study. There was Bill sitting on the pillowed floor, artist's brush in hand, painting the rear of a little church in Taos, New Mexico. Yes, Bill was in New Mexico. His pipe angled out of his mouth, veering slightly to the right, and smoked meditatively. He scarcely heard Anita's sweet voice:

"Bill, Mrs. Rondy says to come help her get the government chairs."

"The government chairs? What government chairs?" (Remember, Bill is almost out of the USA)

"The government chairs have fallen off the parapet."

"Where is the parapet?"

"I don't know."

And so Bill stays on therein Taos, but his thoughts are disturbed—where is the parapet? He dreams of government chairs hurtling down from high walls as he dabs the brush into the mud-brown paint for the side-wall of the Taos church. (Bill will be back with us on Wednesday, January 8).

6. New Year's Eve. There were two types of celebration on New Year's Eve, a party in the dining hall early in the evening, and a quiet hour in the Quiet House where the fire burned brightly, later in the evening. Some went to both; others to one; others stayed in their own homes. Youngest member of the college community, Ann Noland, DID stay up until midnight, and KEPT her mamma and her daddy up also — nothing wrong, no crying; just joyfully conscious of a changing year.

This has been our vacation at BMC. The government housing plumbers, electricians, carpenters, after a Christmas week off, are now hard at work putting on the final touches. The stoves and ice boxes are in; the plumbing is getting in. Work on the farmhouse continues; windows are in; inside painting is underway. Lukey is back from Christmas at home in New York. Anita left yesterday to visit Anne Banks in Bristol; Chick "thumbed" to friends in Tennessee for Christmas, but returned Sunday night; Ed Adamy is visiting friends on a farm down the valley. Cornelia and George are back; Malrey is now on vacation. Apple pie and french fried potatoes have been good. Peter Niebyl spent the holidays here with Karl and Elizabeth. Julie and Marge are back. Dave Resnik got a check from home and hasn't been seen since. Ike's mail is being held for him (? where is Ike?)